

Creel Survey

June 28, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

For those that may have missed it in an emergency regulation change for the mid-Columbia, the projected 2016 Columbia River sockeye return to the mouth of the river has been upgraded by the Technical Advisory Committee to 400,000 fish. The pre-season forecast was 101,600.

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 43 boat anglers kept 1 adult and 1 jack spring Chinook and 33 summer run steelhead. 79 bank anglers kept 34 adult and 2 jack spring Chinook and 1 summer run steelhead. Steelhead were mainly caught around the trout hatchery while the spring Chinook were caught at the barrier dam.

Last week Tacoma Power employees recovered 229 spring Chinook adults, 55 jacks, eight mini-jacks, and 246 summer-run steelhead during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week, Tacoma Power employees released 63 spring Chinook adults and 23 jacks into the Cispus River upstream of the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek near Randle and 46 spring Chinook adults and 22 jacks at Franklin Bridge in Packwood.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,140 cubic feet per second on Monday, June 27.

East Fork Lewis River – 8 bank anglers had no catch during the last 2 weeks of creel sampling.

Kalama River – During the last 2 weeks of creel sampling, 25 boat anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead and 1 adult spring Chinook plus released 1 wild steelhead. 103 bank anglers kept 12 steelhead and 2 adult spring Chinook plus released 2 wild steelhead and 1 hatchery Chinook.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 3,038 salmonid anglers (including 690 boats) with 337 adult and 13 jack summer Chinook, 222 steelhead, and 45 sockeye. Just under half of the adult Chinook were kept. 176 (79%) of the steelhead and all but 2 of the sockeye were kept (even though all were legal to retain).

Anglers should note the lower Columbia mainstem from the Megler-Astoria Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to be open for sockeye and hatchery adult Chinook through July this year.

New sport regulations from this year's NOF that go into effect July 1 on SW WA tribs are listed below. They are in the new Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet.

Effective July 1:

Blue Creek (Lewis Co.) from the mouth to the posted sign above the rearing pond outlet – All species: When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Cispus River from the mouth (posted markers at the Lewis Co. PUD kayak launch) upstream to the falls – Salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Only hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho may be retained. Minimum size is 12 inches. Trout: Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. Other game fish: Statewide minimum size/daily limit. All species: Fly fishing only from the North Fork upstream to the falls.

Cowlitz River from the boundary markers at the mouth upstream to 400 feet below the Mayfield Dam powerhouse – Closed waters within a 100 feet radius of the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery wheelchair ramp structure (within the posted fishing boundary) except for anglers with disabilities AND who have a designated harvester companion card.

Cowlitz River from the posted PUD sign on Peters Road upstream to the Forest 1270 (old Jody's Bridge) – Salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Only hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho may be retained. Minimum size is 12 inches. Trout: Catch-and-release except 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. Other game fish: Statewide minimum size/daily limit.

Elochoman River from the mouth upstream to the West Fork – Closed waters are rescinded from a point 50 feet above to 100 feet below the outlet pipes from the most downstream Elochoman Hatchery rearing pond and extending 30' out from the south bank of the river and from 100 feet above the upper hatchery rack downstream to the Elochoman Hatchery Bridge located 400 feet below the upper hatchery rack.

Elochoman River from the West Fork upstream – Salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Only hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho may be retained. Minimum size is 12 inches.

Grays River (East, South, and the West Fork from the hatchery intake/footbridge upstream) – Salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Only hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho may be retained. Effective August 1, all Chinook must be adipose and/or ventral fin clipped. Minimum size is 12 inches. Selective gear rules are in effect.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Marker 82 line downstream – Last week we sampled 23 sturgeon anglers (7 boats) with 9 legals released. Catch-and-release fishing is reported to be very good in the estuary with lots of legal and oversize fish reported caught but few sublegal size fish.

Walleye

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – 1 walleye angler (1 boat) had no catch.

Trout

Tacoma Power released 4,000 rainbow trout into Mayfield Lake and next week they will release another 4,000 rainbows.

Shad

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 344 shad anglers (including 5 boats) with 1,068 kept and 3 released.

Month/Week June 20-26, 2016	Salmonid											Chinook										
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Rel.	Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Rel.	Other
Bonneville	1	100	12	1	10	0	1	2	1	0	0	21	54	5	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	62	4	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0
	3	76	0	0	2	0	2	1	7	0	0											
Vancouver	4	184	15	1	13	0	4	0	3	0	0	157	445	30	0	25	1	2	0	2	0	0
Woodland	5	231	9	1	18	0	2	0	0	0	0	106	281	19	1	17	0	2	3	0	0	0
Kalama	6	235	10	0	21	0	2	0	3	1	0	61	148	16	1	20	0	3	0	11	0	0
Cowlitz	7											6	14	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
Longview	8	416	3	0	3	0	37	10	3	1	0	184	400	26	3	21	0	32	11	4	0	0
Cathlamet	9	56	1	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	0	70	185	7	2	3	1	55	13	5	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10	29	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	50	115	4	1	9	0	17	2	2	0	0
Total	10	1,334	50	3	67	0	61	16	18	2	0	690	1704	112	8	108	2	115	30	25	0	0

	Sturgeon															
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept				
Bonneville	1					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED						CLOSED				
	3					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Vancouver	4					CLOSED	2	7	27	1	0	CLOSED				
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Kalama	6					CLOSED	1	4	25	2	0	CLOSED				
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Longview	8					CLOSED	4	12	35	6	5	CLOSED				
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED						CLOSED				
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Total		0	0	0	0	CLOSED	7	23	87	9	5	CLOSED				

	Shad											
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.				
Bonneville	1	332	1017	3	5	12	51	0				
Camas/Washougal	2											
	3											
Vancouver	4											
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6											
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
Chinook/Elochoman	10											
Total	10	332	1,017	3	5	12	51	0				

	Walleye											
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.				
Bonneville	1											
Camas/Washougal	2				1	1	0	0				
	3											
Vancouver	4											
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6											
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
Chinook/Elochoman	10											
Total	10	0	0	0	1	1	0	0				